



#### **c.44.6: Chesterton Lane to Gilbert Road**

Includes Alpha Road, Victoria Road, Stretton Avenue, Darwin Drive, Hurst Park Avenue and area; see separate section on Arbury and Kings Hedges

1897 03 25

Alpha Road dustbins p2

1898 10 14

The eccentricity of a horse at Chesterton last night caused its driver and a fare some alarm. It bolted along Chesterton Lane at a furious rate, resisting all the efforts of the driver to get it under control. The animal made a tour of Old Chesterton in record time and returned by the Milton road. At this point the driver came to the conclusion it was quite useless trying to hold the horse in any longer and advised the gentleman inside the cab to "quit". He took a flying leap into the darkness and grazed his face somewhat severely. The driver fell off the box and the off wheel passed over his legs. Continuing his career the horse came into collision with a gatepost at Northampton Street which knocked it on its hindquarters

1898 10 17

The "burgling" fraternity are already on the warpath. In pursuing his unworthy calling at Chesterton some impudent member of the fraternity paid a visit to a house in Victoria Road but got little, if anything, for his trouble. The family left home having previously secured the doors and windows. On their return they were alarmed at finding the front door bolted on the inside. This aroused suspicion and gave rise to the surmise that the house had been invaded by burglars. This belief was confirmed by the movements of the depredator in his haste to beat a retreat by the back part of the premises. By means of wax matches, the debris of which was strewn about the room, Mr Burglar had found his way upstairs and examined the contents of several drawers. It can hardly be imagined that the intentions of the housebreaker were strictly honest and honourable. Probably had he not been disturbed he might have got clear with a considerable amount of booty

1899 08 28

Victoria Road Congregational Church foundation stone laid, p3

**1900**

1900 02 05

Cambridge Adverting Company reported that the hoarding in Victoria Road, Chesterton was in course of enlargement and one at Shelford has recently been enlarged to meet the demand for country posters. An additional hoarding has been secured at the Traveller's Rest, Huntingdon road, and is open to still further enlargement. The secretary and foreman billposter had been most attentive to their duties

1900 03 06

Victoria Road Congregational Church Sunday School, p3

1900 06 14

An inquest on a boy of eight, killed by a bus on Castle Hill, affirmed the death was accidental. It is hardly an exaggeration to describe Chesterton Corner as the death trap of Cambridge. Four road meet; they are all narrow, and the configuration of the corner is such that it is quite impossible for the driver of a vehicle up Magdalene Street to have the faintest notion that there is another coming along Chesterton Lane and if the two do not crash into each other it will be more of an accident than if they do. More room is needed at the corner. This would involve pulling down some old houses. The matter is one which the authorities ought to give attention at once.

1902 07 17

Cambridge Paving Committee had approached the vicar and churchwardens of St Giles' church to ascertain whether it would be possible to acquire a portion of the churchyard for the widening of Castle Street. They would agree provided that the work of excavating and collecting human remains be screened by a hoarding & the bodies reverently re-interred. Chesterton Road corner was a most dangerous one and when the improvement was carried out one corner out of the four would be cut back.

1902 09 16 c

Sir – Many people have felt genuine concern at the announcement that the Cambridge Omnibus Company is to be "wound up". Huntingdon Road, Old and New Chesterton, Mill Road and the rapidly growing suburb of New Cherryhinton have all benefited by its service. It is regretted that in spite of the hundred the Company has conveyed daily, the venture does not pay. Their difficulty is the Tram Company's opportunity and they should arrange for a good suburban service of 'buses to run in conjunction with their cars – New Cherryhinton

1902 11 20

Unfortunately the Cambridge Omnibus Company have been unable to find a purchaser for their business as a going concern and their horses, omnibuses etc had to be sold at their stables in Chesterton Road. A two-horse omnibus to carry 26 passengers fitted with garden seats on the top sold for 20 guineas. Buses by the 'Star Omnibus Company' were not in such good condition and realised £10 while others went for as low a sum as £4.10s. The one-horse 'buses did not sell for much but a four-horse charabanc, "The Cambridge Belle" sold for 62 guineas to Mr Ellis Merry. Prices for horses dropped to as low as three guineas

1902 12 06

Messrs Scruby and Wright sold by auction four brick-built and tiled cottages, nos. 195-199 High Street, Old Chesterton, with outbuildings and gardens, price £310. Two adjoining houses, 64 & 76 Sturton Street, Cambridge, made £330. The family residence, Primrose Croft near Victoria Road with over an acre of land, and the windmill and cottage on the Milton Road were not sold.

1904 03 21

Cambridge Property for sale: Cyprus Road – freehold terrace, sure to improve, £475. Huntingdon Road – pair of villas, £650. Ross Street – freehold terrace of five well-built houses, £1,025 the five. Searle Street – freehold terrace of four houses, £600 the four. Sedgwick Street – a terrace of five freeholds, rare investment - £1,100 the five. Sturton Street – freehold bakehouse, shop, house and stabling - £350. Suez Road – three newly-erected houses, £510 the three. – advert # c.06

1904 04 28

Nonconformists launched their organised opposition to the Education Act at a meeting in Victoria Road Congregational Chapel Cambridge, held instead of the usual service. They could not give their money to pay for their children to be taught doctrines they did not believe in. The State was a secular institution and should look after secular affairs. Schools should be undenominational, paid teachers should not give religious instruction – it should be given by clergymen - and church people should appoint teachers without regard to denominational test or beliefs

1904 11 03

Chesterton Council has purchased land in Carlyle Road, Cambridge, for a recreation ground. They bought rights in the Brickfield Estate from Mrs Wragg-Gurnie and frontages to Alpha Road from Mr Thoday for £1,350. They then sold off the frontages and after paying for the land were left with a bill for £425 together with a further amount for fencing, laying out and planting the ground. This was a very small sum for so large a piece of land and they had carried out a great improvement in Carlyle Road by widening it from Dalrymple Terrace to the end of the road.

1904 11 10

The King's birthday is one of those occasions upon which a certain section of the 'Varsity and Town consider it necessary to turn themselves into public nuisances. This year they avoided the Borough police by making a raid on Chesterton. The mob made tracks for Midsummer Common with the object of having a bonfire. Several hundred crossed Jesus Green Bridge where a council of war was held. Carlyle Road was mention as leading to fuel for the fire but a number of the belligerents made an incursion down a private road. Several fences were broken down and flames shot into the air as the surreptitiously-obtained timber was thrown on to the fire. No police appeared on the scene, though a number of members of the Force were on duty on the borough side of the river

1906 01 18

Victoria Road Congregational church organ, p3

1906 03 01

New Chesterton Institute, p3

1907 01 03

One of the most flourishing of Cambridge's small industries is the confectionery factory of Pollard and Co. in Garden Walk, Victoria Road. From this delightfully-situated establishment some tons of pure boiled sweets are exported to various parts of the country. Not even with the recent extensions to the factory can they cope with the demand. One of their specialities are honey and butter balls and the marzipan for the centre of their satin pralines is made of the finest almonds. 07 01 03 & 03a

1907 01 18

When Dew Smith and Horace Darwin commenced the manufacture of certain scientific instruments for physiological work at the University Laboratory it was more as a hobby and not financially profitable. But it grew and in 1895 was turned into a limited liability company which is now flourishing at its pleasantly situated works off Chesterton Road. Among its important products is a kite used in meteorological observations and a machine for standardising small screws which has been supplied to the Japanese government. 07 01 18 & a

1907 03 30

Alexandra Gardens, Chesterton, was formally opened. Five years ago Chesterton Urban Council purchased disused brickpits with a frontage to Alpha Road. That portion was sold which enabled the council to acquire the remainder at a very moderate price. The upper part of Carlyle Road was widened, the land turfed, laid out with flower beds and planted with shrubs. It is proposed to have games of tennis and bowls as in vogue in seaside towns 07 03 30

1907 04 06

The Alexandra Gardens, Chesterton, is an excellent example of what can be done by local administrators who keep their eyes open. A few years ago what is now a delightful recreation ground for young and old was simply a collection of vile refuse, a danger and a nuisance. As the council cannot speculate in land Mr H.G. Whibley bought it for £1,350. He disposed of the Alpha Road frontage for £1,000 and made the rest over to the corporation for £350, providing residents a beautiful pleasure garden for a cost so small it is hardly worth considering. 07 04 06

1908 02 25

The sale of the estate of Mr R.R. Rowe, late Borough Surveyor, includes a block of property mid-way between the station and the Post Office which would be suitable for the erection of a college, church, hotel or other business purposes. The residence known as Park House on Parkside, together with houses in Fitzroy Street, King Street and French's Road are also offered in the largest sale held in Cambridge for some long time. 08 02 25 & a & 29

1908 08 21

The magnificent new schools at Milton Road, Chesterton have been equipped with every facility for instruction. Instead of sitting in cramped positions at unsuitable desks the tiny tots will be accommodated with seats to suit their various sizes and their lessons based on the Froebel principle, combining amusement with instruction. They mark a distinct advancement on elementary educational methods and the County Council is to be congratulated. CWN 08 08 21 p4

1908 08 29

The improvement makes a fine approach to the town from the Madingley Road, but one sincerely hopes that now the obvious danger of the corner has been removed, cyclists and others will not forget that the narrowness of the street remains none the less real. The larger portion of the traffic comes from Chesterton Lane and until the opposite corner has received the attention of the road-layer the improvement can hardly be regarded as complete. The great activity sadly disturbed the 'work-shys' who are wont to congregate at the corner for the purpose of holding up the wall. It was a delightful sight to see these groups huddling together, trying to snatch a snooze in the midst of all the clanging clamour of swinging hammers and picks. Now the road is to some extent open the human house-props are found at their usual haunts, though considerable indignation prevails among the more energetic. [CDN 29<sup>th</sup> August 1908]

1908 09 04

Sir – now the widening of Northampton Street is fast nearing completion the improvement of one of our many narrow and dangerous streets will be accomplished. But one effect will be that the traffic is greatly accelerated to the danger of those approaching the corner from other directions. The high wall around St Giles' church should be reduced: this would enable motorists to see more clearly, make the church more conspicuous and dry the road which in winter is often in a muddy condition, being hemmed in on both sides by high walls – Chestertonian. CWN 08 09 04 p7

1908 11 06

The council had been trying for some years to bring about the widening of Carlyle Road and have now been able to make arrangements with Miss Bell, Miss Pye and Mr Darwin who all owned land adjoining. The price agreed was a fair one and Mr Darwin had given his portion to the council. It was one of the greatest improvements in Chesterton for a very great time. Now tenders would be sought to construct a new wall using local labour. CWN 08 11 06 p5

1908 12 11

Chesterton school feud – Milton Road v St Luke's – case 08 12 25

1908 12 25

Allegations that a feud exists between the boys attending Milton Road and St Luke's schools is not entirely borne out by investigation. When the Milton Road School was opened a number of boys attending St Luke's migrated. Installed in the new school they 'put on side' which was too much for their late friends and some small battles ensued. This reached the ears of the authorities and they were punished. Since then rival feelings exist only in the breasts of two or three lads and possibly a snow storm will enable both sides to wipe out all accounts. CWN 08 12 25

1909 05 05

Miss Martha Eyres told the court she managed a shop in Bridge Street. The prisoner called and asked for curtains to be sent on approval to him at the Bus Yard House, Chesterton Road. He promised to pay cash for those his wife kept. But no payment was received. George Clark, a retired butcher, said he had hired the Bus House Yard to the prisoner who'd left somewhat suddenly. 09 05 05

1909 12 10

The new skating rink at the back of Hertford Street was constructed to avoid any noise nuisance. Rinking was a fashionable amusement and there would be a charge so it would not be overrun with the rough element. They wanted to have a string band, with no drums, to play at intervals. There was not the slightest intention of making it a dancing saloon but they would like a licence so it could be used for subscription dances during May Week. CWN 09 12 10

## **1910**

1910 08 19

George Fawcett Winter, the well-known boatbuilder, became the proprietor of the boatyard near Victoria Bridge in 1876, succeeding the late Edward Searle. Ten years later he was connected with the boat-building industry at Eton: he used to spend the summer there and the winter at Cambridge. In 1900 he decided to relinquish his Cambridge business which came into the hands of Mr F. Pocock who is now carrying it on. He was well-known amongst University and Town rowing men and took an interest in the affairs of Old Chesterton. 10 08 19h

1910 12 16

Roller skating racing holds a prominent position in the world of sport. In Cambridge a large crowd were attracted to the University and Town Rink in Magrath Avenue to witness a half-mile amateur championship. It is undoubtedly one of the largest rinks in the Eastern Counties and well suited for racing. The floor was in excellent condition and the times recorded very good indeed. H.P. Pilbeam, a youngster of much promise, was leading up to the last lap but lacked training and could not stay the course. It was won by A. Gray who skated very finely 10 12 16

1910 12 30

William Warren of Victoria Road, Chesterton, who was an old Volunteer, got into an argument in the Carpenter's Arms after a man spoke disrespectfully of the King. He was knocked down and fell on a glass which penetrated his thigh, severing the artery. Now he has received a letter from Sandringham which reads: 'The King regrets to hear that owing to your pluckily taking exception to disloyal language being used, you sustained deep cuts in the leg. His Majesty desires to be informed of your condition and hopes the injuries are not of a serious nature'. 10 12 30a

1911 11 03

Cambridge Town Council wanted Victoria Bridge and its approaches to be declared a main road and maintained by the County Council. But they did not agree: the Bridge had been built under an Act of Parliament at the expense of Chesterton UDC and Cambridge Town Council. After the bridge was built Victoria Avenue had been declared and made a main road. But there was already a main road from Chesterton to Cambridge via Magdalene Street and over the Great Bridge 11 11 03i & j

1911 11 24

The University and Town Roller Skating Rink will open its doors as the County Rink Cinema, Magrath Avenue. A small portion of the large building is being converted into an up-to-date picture theatre where the very best films will be shown. The ticket will also give free entry to the rink and use of skates. The ring will certainly be smaller but still allow for racing and hockey. Gymkhanas and carnivals will continue to be held. 11 11 24b

1912 02 02

Cambridge Fire Brigade were called to a fire at a property in Chesterton Lane and turned out with the motor and fire engine. On arriving at the house, which is unoccupied and is one of a row which are being pulled down, they discovered the woodwork over the fire place and a cupboard adjoining were alight. The flames were quickly extinguished by the aid of the hand pump. Captain Greef, Lieut. Diver, Engineer Pearl and firemen Papworth, Brookman and others assisted. 12 02 02i

1912 02 09

Carpenter killed in fall from scaffolding at Scientific Instrument Works, Chesterton – 12 02 09a

1912 04 19

Sir – Cambridge Corporation have instructed all persons in the out-lying parts to telephone the Central Fire Station in case of fire. We in Chesterton are in a very awkward position. We have no telephones for public use. The nearest fire alarm post is at Quayside and one would have to walk, run or cycle there, and then fumble about in a very poor light trying to find out how to work the apparatus. We need a telephone call office instead. A doctor might be sent for, goods ordered from various tradesmen or one might even ring up his best girl – Philip Clare 12 04 19f

1912 12 12

Miss M.B. Thomas, M.A. of Huntingdon Road has the distinction of being the first lady in Cambridge to resist paying her taxes on the ground that taxation and representation should go together. At the Spring Inn, Chesterton Road an antique pendant and two gold bracelets will be sold by auction by the Collector of Taxes. This is very unusual: R.B. Catling, the well-known auctioneer was approached but was unwilling to conduct the sale under such circumstances. A few years ago a farmer in Burnt Fen objected to paying the education portion of the poor rate and bought a new wagon to hand over for the purpose of distraint. It was painted red and he intended to have a record of each distraint recorded on a panel in black lettering, buying it back himself. He was convinced that by the time all the panels were filled in, he would be no longer called upon to pay the rate 12 12 12c

1913 02 28

St Luke's was a district lying between the Chesterton & Huntingdon roads, intersected by small streets in which were houses of working class persons. Victoria Road was an important thoroughfare with a great deal of traffic especially since the Victoria Bridge was opened. The bulk of the population was artisan and the parish was more or less a happy one to work in, the Rev Hird told Barnwell Clergy Fund 13 02 28 p5 CIP

1913 04 24

Victoria Road Congregational Church annual meeting

1913 07 25

William Macintosh, a director of Messrs A. Macintosh & Sons told the court the landlord of the Spring public house, Chesterton Road had selected a bath and other things to be fixed at the pub, saying he would get the brewers, Lacons to pay it. But no payment was forthcoming. The defendant's solicitor said it was a most expensive piece of luxury. The judge: 'Do you call a bath a luxury'. 'It is here in Cambridge. We have no public baths here'. Judgement was given for the plaintiffs. 13 07 25 p9

1913 09 26

Lacon's brewery had 132 pubs in Cambridge; one of the best was the Spring Hotel Chesterton but a bath was essential if it was to do a good trade. Running and boating men were constantly complaining that saucer baths were inconvenient. So Lacon's Manager ordered a new one from Messrs Macintosh and they also replaced the lavatory which gave off a most offensive smell. But the brewery disputed payment and said it was up to the tenant to meet the cost. 13 09 26 p10

1913 11 07

The Rink Picture Palace, Hertford Street plans to show Dante's 'Inferno' was attacked by the Mayor: he had received many letters from residents; if shown any renewal of the licence by justices would be refused at once, he warned. The manager, Syd Byron wrote to the Presiding Magistrate. He offered to give a private performance and cut any objectionable scenes. Magistrates were equally divided and could not therefore prohibit the showing. They hoped he would not show it. But Mr Byron decided to go ahead 13 11 07 p10 CIP # c.76.9

1914 04 03

The foundation stones of the new Primitive Methodist Church Sundays Schools in Castle Street were laid when a large crowd gathered. A public tea was held afterwards in the Palace Rink, Magrath Avenue, when 350 attended. 14 04 03d

1914 04 03

Several workman engaged in tarring the road were placidly eating their mid-day meal between Alpha and Carlyle Roads when one of their two tar boilers burst into flames. Apparently the tar boiled over, pouring into the furnace and so caught fire. A barrel of tar resting on top of the boiler also caught alight and the flames rose well above the high chimney. Dense volumes of smoke darkened the road for some distance. It burned with a continuously crackling sound caused by the explosion of the granite kerbing which kept flying off in large flakes like stars from a Roman candle and showered down on the road for a distance of 15 yards 14 04 03n

1914 04 24

The Housing Difficulty. The Cambridge housing problem again came before the Cambridge Town Council at its meeting yesterday and the Town Planning Committee submitted plans for the erection of six roomed cottages on the Victoria Road estate (writes Free Lance). The estimated cost of the houses will be £200 each and the Council gave authority to the committee to consider further details of the scheme. The Stanley Road experiment in the erection of cottages was once more criticised and the committee was empowered to invite offers for the lease of the ground in Stanley Road for a term of 75 years. 14 04 24

1914 05 29

Cambridge Scientific Instrument Company welcomed visitors to their workshops, test room, drawing office and stores. They were also shown the manufacture and operation of the various instruments made. Many are of great commercial value. The extension is the fourth addition since the works were moved from Panton Street to Chesterton Road. It is the chief of the few manufacturing concerns in Cambridge and now employs 180 hands 14 05 29d & e

1914 09 25

Cambridge Men on Torpedoed; Ships. News of the disaster to three of the cruisers of the British Fleet was officially known on Tuesday. Cambridge men are stated to have been on each of the; three cruisers. H.M. ships Aboukir, Hogue and Cressy were each torpedoed by German submarines and sank. The local men known to have been on board are: H.M.S.; Aboukir: Midshipman C. A. G. Cooke, son of Dr. K. Cooke, Bridge Street, Cambridge. Mr. Cooke was among those saved. HMS Hogue: First Class P.O. Percy James Warrington, Union Road, Cambridge (reported to be safe and to have been landed at Harwich), Signalman John Toombs, East Road, Cambridge and Naval. Reservist J. L. Claydon, 6, Benson Street, Cambridge; H.M.S, Cressy: Naval Reservist O. Hinson, 57, Garden Walk, Cambridge: Mr. Hinson, who is a married man with one child, has been employed at King's College as a gate porter for about six years. Midshipman Cooke said he was in the water for three

quarters of an hour before being picked up by one of the Cressy's cutters. He was afterwards taken on a fishing trawler, later transferred to H.M.S. Legion and landed at Harwich. He is now home in Cambridge on a short leave. Mr. W. Maskell of Sawston, who had a son serving on the Aboukir, received a telegram from him on Wednesday morning to inform him he was among those saved. 14 09 25

1914 10 16

Victoria Road working class houses

1914 11 13

Corp. L. Stoakley from Victoria Road writes to say he has been relieved: "We did look a crowd of tramps. Fancy ten days without a wash or shave, covered with mud and nearly dropping from want of sleep. Nobody can imagine what it is like to crouch in the trenches and hear the shells bursting overhead. It is awful. The enemy are suffering heavy losses and General French says it will just be a matter of days to see it through. There is a change of being home for Christmas yet

1916 03 08

Licensing sessions – King's Arms, Union Rd; Horse & Gate, Victoria Rd; Cross Keys, Saxon St; Swan & Pool, New St. – all referred – 16 03 08a

1916 12 13

Thirty Years Hallkeeper.—Many, especially the older generation of Cambridge, will hear with deep regret of the death of Mr. James Jacob, who for 30 years (up to September, 1900) held the post of hallkeeper at the Guildhall, Cambridge. For many years past he had been residing at 15, Hertford Street, Chesterton. He was 83 years of age

1917 01 03

Boys at St Luke's school at work in the garden and the workshop and on drill – photos – 17 01 03a

1917 05 02

Unusual Accident. An extraordinary accident occurred at the top of Victoria Road and Histon Road on Friday afternoon. A horse belonging to Mr. Edward Bolton, attached to a Corporation water-cart, which was about to flush a sewer, suddenly backed, its off hind leg going down the manhole. Assistance was soon forthcoming, and the harness was removed from the animal. With the aid of some poles and a rein, which had been buckled around the leg, the horse was raised from its unfortunate position after several attempts. Luckily, the animal was apparently none the worse for its adventure.

1918 02 02

Chesterton Communal Kitchen, St Luke's vicarage, opens – 18 02 20a

1918 02 13

Borough licences; closure Horse & Gate on Victoria Rd; King's Arms Union Road, Swan Pool in New Street – 18 02 13a

1918 06 12

Knighted. The additional Birthday Honours, published on Saturday last, contained the name of Mr. Horace Darwin, F.R.S., head of the Cambridge Scientific Instrument Company, who becomes a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire. Sir Horace Darwin, who is a son of the famous Charles Darwin, was born on May 13, 1851. He was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge and founded the Scientific Instrument Company in 1881, in partnership with the late Mr. Dew Smith, and the work of what has now become a great concern was for a considerable time carried on in very modest workshops at the back of Victoria Road. The growth of this business is one of the romances of Cambridge. In 1895 he entered the Cambridge Town Council as a representative of Castle Ward and



the following November he was elected Mayor, the nomination of the Conservatives and discharged the duties with great ability during the Great Jubilee year of 1897. He was appointed a J.P. in 1906.

## **1920**

1920 07 17

Y.W.C.A. Hostel moves from Barton Road to Chesterton Road overlooking the river

1920 10 25

Victoria Road Congregational Church war memorial unveiled

1920 11 04

Plans for cinema on site of Old Spring Brewery, Chesterton Road (Tivoli); first plans for a temporary building consisting of a stage and dressing room in the garden, later plans for roofing over the garden between the building and Chesterton Road

1922 03

The Rendezvous cinema, Hertford Street. "All next week. Super attraction! Mary Pickford can no more grow up than Peter Pan & that is why her latest production "Through the back doors" is just the type of charming picture you will want to see ... the kind that made her famous ... brimful of heart interest ... intensely effective. Special music programme. Perfect projection. Warm & comfortable"

1922 12 01c

P.C. Cudworth told Cambridge magistrates that he was on duty in Victoria Road when he saw defendant riding a bicycle without a front light. He stopped him and asked him where his light was. Defendant said it has just gone out and he was going to light it. He then dismounted from the bicycle and witness noticed he showed signs of having been drinking. Defendant took a box of matches from his coat pocket and attempted to strike one. Witness then noticed that the lamp on the machine was an electric one. This aroused his suspicions.

1922 12 08

The urgent need for carrying out schemes of public importance in order to relieve the unemployment situation in the Borough were admitted on all hands at the meeting of the Cambridge Town Council. During the past two years they had been endeavouring as far as possible each winter to find work for those men who unfortunately were out of employ. Last year they were able to place 200 men on the Sewage Farm. That work had nearly come to a close. It was stated that there were 800 men out of work in the Borough which was an increase of nearly 100 over last year. Suggestions for further work included underground lavatories at the junction of Victoria Road, Chesterton Road and Milton Road, a bridge across the Cam at the bottom of Walnut Tree Avenue and a recreation ground on the Rock Estate

1923 10 26

Cambridge public health committee recommended the council make an order declaring the fried fish trade to be an offensive business. But Councillor Few said the council had power to insist there should be proper appliances for taking away the smell. Was it a question of the district where the shops were? Was it a case of no objections in New Street, but when it came to Chesterton it was offensive. He believed that in the case of the fried fish shop in Victoria Road it was the property owners that were backing opposition because they were afraid their property would suffer. Fried fish shops are the restaurants of the poor. If these shops were closed many people would be prevented from getting a hot meal

1923 11 21

Miss Alderson said that since the opening of the Cambridge shelter for girls house in 1922 there had been 91 admissions. The present house (13 Hertford Street) was absolutely inadequate. There was a lack of proper arrangements for cleansing, no possibility for a separate bedroom for those for whom it

was urgently necessary, no place except the one sitting room where the washing could be dried and the absence of any pretence of a waiting room. She described the only lines on which such a house could be run as Early Victorian if not prehistoric and appealed for support from the municipal authorities

1924 10 04

The 1924-5 edition of Spalding's Directory for Cambridge shows progress has been made with the development of various building estates and we find for the first time the names of Hawthorn Way, Harvey Goodwin Avenue, Haig Road joining Chesterton and Cam Road, and Coleridge Road which is the name given by Jesus college to the new road between Cherryhinton road and Romsey Town.

1925 03 16

The "Tivoli", Cambridge's new cinema on Chesterton Road will be opened on Thursday and many people have been speculating as to what it looks like inside. A representative of the CDN who had a look around came away very much impressed with the general air of comfort and the attractiveness of the interior. Over 600 people can be seated in the body of the hall and gallery. It has comfort, excellent lighting and excellent decoration. If you want a private box for six people you may have one for the sum of 15s.

1925 03 20

Described as "Chesterton's super cinema", the Tivoli made its debut before the Cambridge public when there were two opening performances. Elaborate, cosy, artistically lighted and efficiently ventilated, Cambridge's sixth cinema has every justification for expressing itself in superlatives. It has a courteous staff of brown-uniformed attendants, an excellent orchestra and a screen sufficiently large to do justice to the most elaborate film productions. The projection last night was not perfect, but this was merely a matter of adjustment.

1925 05 28

"I promised the little girl at work that I would bring her some flowers" was the excuse which a 14-year-old errand boy offered to magistrates for wilfully damaging a laburnum tree at Victoria Great Jubilee Memorial Pleasure ground, Chesterton Road. The magistrates took a lenient view of the offence and fined him 3s.

1925 10 02

The new Harvey Goodwin Home for Boys which has been erected at St Luke's Park, Victoria Road, Cambridge under the auspices of the Church of England Society for Providing Homes for Children (Waifs and Strays) was formally opened. The house is a fine, red brick building, capable of housing 35 boys and stands on a splendid site, and within its own grounds. The Bishop of Ely spoke of the work of sending boys from these homes to the Dominions under proper supervision.

1926 03 05

An application was made for the renewal of the music and dancing licence of the Rendezvous, Magrath Avenue, Cambridge. Several residents objected on the grounds of noise very late at night caused by cars, people talking, and the band and the magistrates in renewing the licence curtailed it until 11 pm. Mr William Evans said the dancing was absolutely letting the whole district down. There were working men living in the area and their rest was being disturbed by motor cars until 1 o'clock in the morning. People promenaded outside and he had known them sit on the step in front of his house to do their courting.

1926 04 26

An inquiry was held into the provision of two underground public conveniences at the junction of Milton and Chesterton and Newmarket and East Roads where there would be an island in the middle of the road. The Inspector asked whether they had designed the roof to carry the weight of a heavy motor lorry; it would be a very simple matter for a lorry to jump a kerb on a foggy night as had happened at Southend when people had been injured. He also raised the question of a convenience for

women and the Mayor said the matter had been very carefully considered by the committee who were anxious to get on with the work as quickly as possible.

1927 01 06

Cambridge council agreed to spend £7,653 on the reconstruction and widening of Victoria Avenue. The scheme was criticised on the grounds that it would tempt motorists to increase their speed along the avenue. The Surveyor said that the railings should go back an extra 11 feet as far as the trees, making the road 55 feet. Chesterton wanted a vehicular bridge at Walnut Tree Avenue which would carry much of the traffic, but this had been coming for the last 35 years and it had not come yet (laughter).

1927 02 01

The Rendezvous placard trolley, which has so many times gone its rounds of the streets of Cambridge advertising "thrillers" and "heart appeal" stories at this cinema met with an ignominious fate at the hands of undergraduates. It was seized by a party of merry gownsmen and pulled in triumph down Hertford Street and Magdalene Street where they sought to dispose of it by pushing it into the river. It fell on to the landing stage moored at this point but with undamped ardour the undergraduates endeavoured by their united efforts to confine this "publicity agent on wheels" to the cold depths of the Cam. Then, the last rites having been performed, the revellers went on their way rejoicing.

1927 07 02

Sir – the work has been started to widen Victoria Avenue, Cambridge, from the Four Lamps to Victoria Bridge. The roadway when finished will be wide enough for vehicle traffic to proceed four abreast. The Bridge will not be so wide as the road and heavy traffic may mean serious congestion. Some suggest the road over the bridge may be made wider by making the footpaths overlap the river. If this were done the narrow road on the north side would be an obstacle and as this roadway cannot be made right through to Chesterton Road this scheme should never go forward – E. Clayden

1927 02 04

The Rendezvous Dance Hall asked for an extension of the dancing licence. The hall was built in 1909 as a skating rink and there was then no houses in Magrath Avenue. Those who came to live there afterwards came knowing the hall was there. From 1912 it was used as a variety and picture hall and in 1915 was commandeered for the War Office. In 1919 it was returned and conducted as a dance hall and cinema. In 1925 magistrates decided it should be open until midnight but there were complaints that people leaving made a noise with their motors & cycles. It was the best dance hall in Cambridge and now no one ever dreams of a dance ever terminating until 12. The Guildhall and Masonic Hall had licences until 2 a.m.

1927 09 01

The foundation stone of two new cottages were laid at the Cambridge Victoria Friendly Society's Institution in Victoria Road, Cambridge when. One is to house the nurse-matron and the other will be for an extra inmate. They have been made possibly by the generosity of the late Miss Emily Flack. They will be one-storey buildings containing a living room, a bedroom and a scullery. The nurse's cottage will have a bathroom in addition. It was only right that old people who had worked all their life and exercised thrift by belonging to a Friendly Society should in their old age find a haven of rest, said the President, Dr E.H. Parker.

1927 11 03 c

A verdict of accidental death was returned at an inquest into a labourer from Tan Yard, Northampton Street, Cambridge who died as the result of injuries sustained in a motor accident. John Mayes, cinema attendant at the Tivoli Cinema said deceased was pulling a handcart; he was in the shafts on the river side of Chesterton Road. He saw the left wing of the car hit the cart and the man went right under the car. William Tams, a photographer, estimated the car's speed at about 25 miles an hour. PC Brown said he saw the handcart being used to lever the car up in order to lift it off the man. The boy said "Some --- fool ran into me; don't let mother know".

1927 11 26

Chesterton RDC received the layout submitted by Cambridge Estates Ltd for a new building estate in the parish of Impington. They had acquired 30 acres of land. The estate a considerable frontage to Arbury Road. It could be drained mainly into Milton Road by a new road to be called Hurst Park Avenue. It would be developed uniformly on garden suburb lines with wide roads & grass verges.

1928 04 13

Dancers and band musicians thronged to a dance band contest at the Rendezvous in Magrath Avenue, Cambridge. Eleven bands took their turns on the platforms. Each played a fox-trot and a waltz. A fault with several bands was that the violinists showed a tendency to overdo their parts. Judging was by popular vote and the results were: 1st Cambs Mental Hospital Dance Band, 2nd Jack Vivian's Dance Band & 3rd Sid Parsley's Dance Band. The winners, who previously were practically unknown to the dancing public, played in confident style and nicely together. The band is a six-piece and undoubtedly more will be heard of it.

1928 07 09

Close to the windmill on the north side of Milton Road, opposite Chesterton Hall Crescent, occupying one of the highest and healthiest sites in the locality and surrounded by spacious lawns and trim walks stands the new open-air school for defective and sub-normal children. It is an ideal school, admirably adapted to its purpose and planned and equipped on a generous scale, a veritable children's paradise. The opening ceremony was an open-air function. Open air schools for delicate children have come to stay and in the future all schools will probably become open-air

1929 03 09

Sir – I have watched the progress of H.M.S. Dredger at present operating off the footbridge, Chesterton Road, Cambridge. Some months ago they dredged one half of the lower river in the vicinity of Jesus Locks and deposited the sludge on the Chesterton side in the river; later the dredged the river above the locks and deposited the sludge in the actual place previously dredged - 'One of the financing party'

1929 03 15

A case of considerable interest to people buying or selling goods on the hire-purchase system was heard at Cambridge court. Messrs Miller & Son sued the former musical director of the Tivoli Cinema, Chesterton Road over an H.M.V. gramophone and records. The agreement said that the machine was to be kept at a house in Chesterton Road but he had moved it to the nearby Spring Hotel without being granted permission. When he moved to the West Kensington Super-Cinema, London, the firm had seized the machine.

1929 03 22

Cambridge council is to introduce automatic traffic signals at the crossroads at Northampton Street and Chesterton Lane for a three-month trial. The present cost of a policeman on point duty was about £400 a year and the signals, with purchase, would be about £200 with about £25 a year maintenance and repairs. But Coun Stubbs described it as "robot policemen"; a friend in Liverpool had had to wait ten minutes with a clear road before he could get a move on. He did not see how traffic could be controlled as well as by human means: "I can see myself telling it to mind its own business" (Laughter). It was at the wrong place, being at the bottom of a steep hill; it would be better at the East Road – Mill Road crossing.

1929 07 19

Purchasing land between Histon Road and Frenches Road – Victoria Road – discussed CDN 19.7.29

1929 10 19

With the passing of Mrs Eliza Jane Mason of the Livingstone Hotel, Petty Cury, Cambridge has lost a prominent member of the restaurant business. She commenced business with a university lodging

house on Market Hill which became known as 'Masons' and was converted into a restaurant. It was largely used by cadets and catered for the officers stationed here during the Great War. Almost the first Belgian wounded soldiers were billeted there and she acted as a sort of nursing mother to them. Her next move was to Sadd's before she bought the Livingstone Hotel which was then only a coffee house. It is now one of the best commercial hotels in Cambridge. She also built the Rendezvous, Magrath Avenue as a skating rink in 1909.

1929 12 16

French's Road houses photo, p5

### **1930**

1930 01 20

Demolition work has begun on the Chesterton Sub-Police station, Mitcham's Corner. At one time the office of the old Chesterton Urban District Council it became a police station on the amalgamation of Chesterton with the borough. Corner improvements have made its removal desirable. Workmen are hurrying in and out and already it is windowless and completely barren internally. It will be replaced by a police-box. The familiar fire standards are also doomed to disappear; five wall boxes have been erected which will be in operation as soon as the telephones are installed. The change has been made because the public dislikes the breaking of glass in the older standards and prefer to use a telephone case of emergency 30 01 20

1930 04 07

The new electric traffic signals are generally working well but it seems that the average motorist accelerates when the green light is showing in order to get through before it changes. This is particularly evident at the Northampton Street – Castle Hill crossing in Cambridge as a driver going towards Huntingdon seeing a stiff climb directly ahead naturally tries to get through and up the hill. But a driver coming down often finds his car has a tendency to accurate of its own and tries to get into Chesterton Lane a little too fast, swinging out into the standard erected in the centre of the road. 30 04 07

1930 04 03

William James Ison started as a cycle dealer in Chesterton Road in 1897; his business prospered and at one time he had four shops selling and repairing cycles. He also put one of his own machines on the market. The 'New Chesterton' has become deservedly popular and a special racing model won over 100 prizes in 1908. His late wife was sister of Fred Lawrence of the Belmont Cycle Works in King Street. 31 04 03f

1931 06 12

The new road under construction between Milton and Histon Roads provides some exceptionally attractive sites for those wishing to erect a private house. It has much to recommend it as Chesterton is a very popular district but most of the available land within a reasonable distance of town has already been taken up. The plots are for the erection of private dwellings only and no bungalows or inadequate houses can be erected. 31 06 12k

1931 06 12

The complete reconstruction of the Cambridge Town Football Club is underway and when supporters pay their money at the gate next season they will be confronted with an entirely new sight. The old stand has been demolished and the network of frames for the new one seating 800 people erected together with a new pavilion. There will also be a full-sized Cumberland turf green for the Chesterton Bowling Club. 31 06 12l

1931 07 17

Fire completely destroyed the Rendezvous Cinema and Dance Hall at Magrath Avenue, Cambridge. The only part left standing is the fireproof operating box, which is really a separate structure. Staff

removed 12,000 feet of film which, if reached by the flames, might have caused a serious explosion. The most spacious dance floor in the Eastern Counties was reduced to charred bits of wood. Renovations and improvements to the dance hall lounges were nearing completion and were to be opened as a special attraction. 31 07 17j & k

1932 03 05

Magistrates refused to relicence the Bowling Green public house, High Street, Chesterton. The landlord said a billiard room had been re-decorated, he had regular customers and it had become more or less an institution. But there had been a decrease in trade, despite the growing estate nearby. The Maypole in Portugal Place was the headquarters of the Whippet Club; the tenant was 70 years of age and his only means of support would be the old-age pension. This together with the Alhambra in East Road, the Eagle Tavern beerhouse in Victoria Road and the Clarendon Arms was relicenced. 32 03 05

1932 05 23

Cambridgeshire Insurance Committee considered moving to the new County Hall, Castle Hill. It was a very fine situation but what sane business man having a base in the centre would go a mile out of town to a place scarcely anybody knew - even though there was a free motor park. But future development would be on the north of Cambridge as the County had offered a very large acreage of land between Histon railway station and the old Chesterton village. 32 05 23 & a

1933 02 03

The Mayor, (Ald Mrs Keynes) expressed her appreciation for the support her fund for providing work for the unemployed is receiving. There are 1,600 unemployed men in Cambridge but 120 who have done no work for a year are now making the path on Long Road and levelling Coldham's Common. Another 80 will level the building ground in Brook's Road and the site of the new school and playground in Gilbert Road. 33 02 03e

1933 03 21

St Luke's school overcrowding – 33 03 21a

1934 01 12

H.J. Gray, the Cambridge sports manufacturers are flourishing and announced plans to extend their Playfair Works into which they moved from Searle Street 25 years ago. Now a new mill and motor engine would be introduced to keep up with demand. Henry John Gray started his career in a racquets court on the site of the present University Arms Hotel nearly 90 years ago. He became champion racquets player of England – a title that had stayed in the family for 22 years - and two his brothers became champions of the world. 34 01 12

1934 01 30

The greenhouses at Cambridge borough cemetery were beyond repair and would have to be scrapped. But more glasshouse accommodation was now required for the propagation of plants used on the recreation grounds. Two new 120 ft glasshouses could be constructed on the West Chesterton recreation ground where a house could be built for the man in charge, councillors agreed. 34 01 30

1934 04 07

Cambridge boundary extension, Chesterton reaction cartoon – 34 04 07

1934 05 05

Cambridge Mothercraft Clinic aimed to promote breast-feeding. It held clinics three days a week in Chesterton Road; over 2,000 mothers had attended and nearly 80 per-cent breast-fed their children. The class that attends the public clinics are not the best for an educational movement. They wanted to get people who are further up in educational interest, and perhaps intellectual development. The main aim was to keep well babies well. 34 05 05

1934 06 29

A shell, nine inches long was found by W.G. Collins in his garden in Alpha Road. It was of a type fired by anti-aircraft guns and in a greatly rusted condition. But it was obviously 'live' so he took it to the Police Station. There he was referred to the Drill Hall, but they didn't want it either! Eventually he took it to the Officers Training Corps for disposal. This is the second such dangerous explosive recently: two live hand grenades were found some time ago. 34 06 29

1934 09 17

Consternation reigned when lightning struck two houses in Stretten Avenue, dislodging part of the chimney stack which damaged the roof. Soot was shot all over the place and there was a smell of gas. During the storm large hailstones fell in Grantchester while at Haslingfield Mr Norman Thompson's bus with a load of passengers was forced to stop when the hail beat a fusillade on the roof. 34 09 17

1934 10 06

The dog trough which stands outside Lloyds Bank in Victoria Road has been in position for some weeks. It was erected by His Royal Highness Prince Chula of Siam in memory of Tony, a dog which gave him friendship and happiness during his Cambridge years. The Prince 'went down' some time ago but left the money for the trough to be erected. 34 10 06

1935 02 20

It was time something was done about St Luke's School. The headmistress had a class of 54 in a large room divided only by a curtain from another class of 50. It was very trying for the teachers and not very satisfactory for the children. Putting another teacher into the room would not be much use. Romsey Council School also had large classes but to move one upstairs would be difficult: the natural lighting and ventilation was poor and there was insufficient head room. The head would prefer to have eight classes under normal conditions than take a class in an attic, councillors were told. 35 02 20b

1935 05 11

The new West Chesterton children's playground off Histon Road was opened by the Mayor and hundreds of youngsters thronged the ground for the occasion. Since it was bought as an orchard three years ago an immense amount of work had been necessary. It was not complete and they were hoping for swings and perhaps a roundabout later. It is primarily intended for younger children and not for the playing of hard-ball games such as cricket but old and middle-aged people could also enjoy the ground for sitting about. 35 05 11b

1935 09 07

Victoria Road Industrial School for poor boys – photo c1860 – 35 09 07a

1935 09 26

New estates – Storeys Way & Gilbert Road – 35 09 26a

1935 10 25

The new Senior School off Gilbert Road, Chesterton contains separate departments for senior boys and girls, each with its own assembly hall fitted with a stage and cinema projection room. The boys department has science laboratory and woodwork and metalwork rooms while the girls' includes provision for cookery, laundry and dressmaking. A changing room, fitted with shower baths, has been included in connection with organised games. 35 10 25a

1936 01 10

New Chesterton Institute organised grand social at the Dorothy Café to celebrate their Golden Jubilee. The whole of the Dorothy had been booked for the occasion but even then the number had to be limited to 800 and several hundred were disappointed. There was dancing to Reg Cottage's band, a progressive whist drive and a concert in the Oak Room. Miss Queenie Chapman's pupils gave an excellent dancing display and Pat Peddle and Joan Metcalfe produced a version of 'Top Hat'. Suppers were served through the evening when a gramophone provided appropriate music. Many tired people were very glad of buses to various parts of the town. 36 01 10a

1936 01 31

There was a need for providing a community welfare centre for the housing estates on the outskirts of Cambridge where a large proportion of the houses were occupied by youngish married couples with growing children. Chesterton is like a new town, the people are isolated, lonely, vague and have no centre. Youngsters wandered aimlessly about with nothing to do and nowhere to go. They need a building for public meetings, concerts, dances, films and medical inspections. But it would not be suitable as a library and a site in Ascham Road would offer quietness and room for any necessary growth, councillors were told. 36 01 31 & a

1936 03 09

The Rendezvous, in Magrath Avenue has been turned into a modern luxury super-cinema with a new café restaurant. The latest talkie equipment ensures perfect reproduction and sound, the films are of the highest quality and patrons are assured of a three-hour programme. An added attraction is the illuminated Compton organ which is played at every performance. The ballroom has been re-decorated and is one of the finest in the Eastern Counties with popular tea dances and combined tea, picture and dancing tickets. 36 03 09

1937 03 24

Men worked in gas masks when two heavily-laden lorries came into collision at the junction of Chesterton Lane and Castle Street. The crash happened at 5.30 am when the traffic lights were not working. The vehicles were an Eastern Railways lorry laden with ten tons of fruit and a lorry carrying 4,000 bricks. The impact threw the Railways vehicle on to its side and it fell on to the street refuge, the lamp standard and two posts. A passer-by was overcome by gas so workmen donned masks to move the load so a cock could be fitted and the gas turned off. 37 02 24a

1937 04 12

Opening Ascham Road library, the Mayor said it was a great day for Chesterton. In that beautiful building, with good light and accommodation they could look at the books and select them for themselves. The children's library would encourage youngsters to read. At present physical education was the fashion. We were in danger of producing a nation finely developed from the waist down. The library would help to counteract it. Ten months ago they opened a branch library in Rock Road and so far 87,799 books had been issued, very close to the number at Mill Road branch which had been in existence 40 years. (Applause). 37 04 23c & d

1937 08 04

Sir, as a former critic of Histon Road Cemetery may I now acknowledge the improvement which is so apparent, especially to the curator who had no easy task in taking over such a neglected place. However Alexandra Gardens in Carlyle Road is probably the worst kept of all the recreation grounds. The grass verges have been neither mown nor trimmed this year and no hoe has been used on the shrubbery border which is a mass of thistles and other weeds. It seems difficult to believe that no member of the Council ever pays a visit – 'Observer' 37 08 04

1937 09 21

New Chesterton Institute opened a new hall over the billiards room; it would be used for debates, lectures, whist drives, dramatic society work and other functions. 37 09 21

1937 12 21

Sir — in Cambridge we have a council which is over-ridden by an irresponsible official whose knowledge of local conditions is nil. Some councillors did oppose the removal of the pedestrian refuges at the junction of Northampton Street and Chesterton Lane but they meekly submitted and gave way to the arrogance of the dictator. It was said that large vehicles could not get round the corners and that the lamp post had been knocked down 'scores of times'. But if certain transport companies have their way it will be necessary to remove St Giles' church and part of Magdalene College! - George Hall. 37 12 21



1938 01 22

New Chesterton Institute annual children's concert – 38 01 22

1939 08 11

If the A.R.P. exercises which took place during the black-out had been the 'real thing', you, dear reader would not have a copy of this paper. For one of the buildings supposed to have been fired by an incendiary bomb was the Cambridge Daily News office. A patrolling warden summoned the A.F.S. unit which dealt with the 'blaze' effectively. But whether any vital damage was done by the fire was a matter left to the imagination. Thankfully only one pub was 'hit', the Jolly Waterman in Chesterton Road. 39 08 11a & b

1935 09 07

Victoria Road Industrial School for poor boys – photo c1860 – 35 09 07a

1939 10 07

Auxiliary fire service headquarters, Victoria Road – photo – 39 10 07

1939 10 11

Air Raid precautions committee have ensured that petrol supplies will be available for special services and several garages have reserved tanks and pumps for them. There are decontaminating centres at Mill Road store yard, Cherry Hinton Hall and Victoria Road. First aid depots have been set up at Shirley and other Schools with first aid parties and two ambulances. Electrically controlled sirens have been installed which together with the steam sirens should be adequate to give necessary warnings 39 10 11

## **1940**

1941 04 11

Vocalist and Sportsman.—A well-known Cambridge vocalist and sportsman, Mr. Arthur Richard Beaten, of 33 Garden Walk, died on Tuesday at the age of 71. Mr. Benten, who was a native of Grimsby, had lived in Cambridge for 48 years, and had been principal alto of King's College for 34 years. He had been assistant librarian and later music librarian at King's. Before coming to Cambridge he was a school teacher and organist at Lincoln. As a follower of cricket, his keen knowledge of the game was well recognised, and Fenner's has lost a real personality. There were few better judges of a potential cricketer than Arthur, and many a Varsity team has he "selected" with unerring judgment after critically watching the earlier trial matches. It was a great joy to him also to attend matches on Parker's Piece when the younger generation were playing. The Cambridgeshire Cricket Association, of which he was a vice-president, will miss him sadly, for as a committee man he was very regular in his attendance and his comments always were worthy of consideration and in the best interests of the game. 41 04 11

1941 05 03

Roller skating craze at height in 1910 with University and Town Rink in Magrath Avenue, Victoria Assembly Rooms, skating rink on Market Hill and in Pythagoras Gardens where was open-air skating and shooting range – 41 05 03b

1941 12 12

Married 50 years – Many friends and neighbours will join in congratulating Mr & Mrs A.W. Cook of 70 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge, who celebrated their golden wedding on Saturday. They were married in 1891 at St. Giles Church by the Rev. G. R. Christie, and had lived in the St. Giles district ever since. Mr. Cook was a well-known professional cricketer in Cambridge, and was, last year umpire for St. Giles' cricket team He was for some time a messenger at Trinity College, and, he later became a gyp at Magdalene, retiring at the age of 65. He is now 72 and his wife 71. She is obviously very proud of her eight children, and said of them that they had not caused her or her husband any

trouble at any time Mr. and Mrs. Cooks first address was 95 Alpha Road. In 1899 they moved to 13 Histon Road, where they remained for 32 years moving thence to their present address in 1929.

1942 03 17

Missing in Malaya.—Many Cambridgeshire families have received this week official intimation concerning husbands and sons who were serving in Malaya up to the fall of Singapore. In all cases the notification has stated that there is at present no news of the man concerned, and for the time it is necessary to post him as "missing." Most of the official notices concern men serving with the Royal Engineers, and amongst these are two brothers, Sergeant William Turkentine and Sapper Allan Turkentine, sons of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Turkentine of 34 Albert Street, Cambridge. 42 03 17

1945 02 23

Rescued from Japan.—News has been received that local prisoners of war are among those listed as being rescued from a Japanese transport carrying them from, No. 4 Thailand Camp to Tokyo. They are Sapper G. F. Spurgin, eldest son of Mr. F. Spurgin, of 65 Greville Road, Cambridge. He was formerly employed by the L.N.E.R. as a fireman. Pte. A. G. Kitson, Royal Norfolk Regiment, husband of Mrs. E. L. Kitson, of King's Lynn. Before marrying and going to King's Lynn he lived at 1 French's Road, Cambridge 45 02 23

1945 07 27

Cambs League. — Left about 100 minutes to get 166 to beat New Chesterton Institute, in the Cambs League on Saturday, Marshall's just failed to beat the clock, being 14 runs behind, with three wickets intact at the call of time. Feature of the Institute's innings of 153 for nine declared was the display of B. Arnold, who made 78 (including 10 fours) before being seventh out at 142. Half the side were out for 53, but B. Bull helped to add 75 for the seventh wicket. S. Kirby, who secured five of the wickets for 28, was top scorer for Marshall's with 46 (five fours). J. Peel, who hit a six and three fours, in his 26, was his partner in a second wicket stand of 64, and later B. Brown hit out, having two sixes and three fours in an unbeaten 40. Bowling unchanged for 19 overs, Bull took four wickets for 46 runs.

1945 08 29

VJ Parties – Eden St, Cherry Hinton Rd, Chestnut Grove – 45 08 29; Queen Edith's Way, Ditton Fields – 45 09 04; Young St, Petworth St, Geldart St, Marshall Rd – 45 09 04; Darwin Drive, Stretton Ave, Victoria St, Hobart Rd, Adam & Eve St – 45 09 07b; Gloucester St, Castle St, Ashfield Rd – 45 09 10; Gilbert Rd, King's Hedges Rd, Ditton Fields – 45 09 11; Lichfield Rd, Cromwell Park estate, Hawthorn Rd – 45 09 12; Catharine St, Kendal Way – 45 09 14; York St & York Terrace, Brooks Road, Gold St – 45 09 17d# Bateson Rd, Garden Walk, Argyle St, St Philip's Rd, Sedgwick St, Holbrook Rd, Mowbray Rd – 45 09 18; Akeman St, James St, Parsonage St, Vinery Rd, Kingston St, Kingston St, Mowbray Rd, Hurst Park Estate – 45 09 20; Eastfield, New St, Kelvin Close – 45 09 24a; Hertford St, St John's Rd, Norwich St, Alpha Terrace, Sherlock Rd – 45 09 27a# c.45.7 Premier Travel take over services of F.E. Weeden of Chrishall – 45 08 30; Silverwood Close, Newmarket Road, Fallowfield, Fen Rd, Water St, Mowbray Rd – 45 10 04a; Cavendish Rd, Stourbridge Grove, Fulbourn Rd, Bradmore St, Petersfield, Gwydir St, Newnham Croft, Scotland Rd, Scotland Close – 45 10 08; Suez Rd, Hale Ave, Harvey Goodwin Ave, Glebe Rd, Radegund Rd, Golding Rd – 45 10 10; Selwyn Rd, Abbey Estate, De Freville Ave, Stanley Rd – 45 10 12a; Milton Rd, Thoday St – 45 10 18

1947 10 06

In the converted green and cream day nursery, and to the happy shouts of the little ones playing in the spacious garden outside, the Harvey Goodwin House, Harvey Goodwin Avenue, which has been adapted from a Home for boys to a nursery for babies and toddlers in the care of the Church of England Children's Society (formerly the "Waifs and Strays") was opened by Lady Whitby. It will accommodate 20 children who remain there until adopted or boarded out. Many friends gathered in the day nursery which has been ideally adapted for the purpose with its cheerful colour scheme, gay chintz curtains at the big windows, nursery pictures on the walls and evidence of its young occupants in the soft toys scattered around.

1947 12 11

Cambridge Instrument Company plans for research laboratory and office block in Carlyle Road referred for further consideration; area primarily residential and fear will destroy view – 47 12 11

1948 03 25

Eleven brave girls came forward at the Rex Ballroom last night to stake their claim to the title of Miss Cambridgeshire 1948 at the annual Glamour Ball held there. A crowd of 400 dancers watched the judges make the snap decision as to the girl with the best looks, nicest figure and so on as the girls stood in the full glare of the limelight. The lucky winner was Miss Eva Simpson of Victoria Road, Cambridge, and the choice appeared to be a popular one as she received a great ovation as she was presented with a silver cup and adorned with the coveted bannerette designating her "Miss Cambridgeshire 1948"

1948 09 04

There are now over 41,000 wireless licences in the Cambridge postal area. This represents one licence to every 4.5 members of the population. A recent Post Office survey shows that in some streets like Eltisley Avenue and Alpha Road, almost every house has a wireless licence, while in others only one in three is in possession. Post office officials are still finding a number of unlicensed sets and a further "comb" is being instituted for the purpose of detecting the holders of illicit sets

1948 09 18

"I feel the club has served a very useful purpose. Even if it dies now, the effect will not die for many years. It has made Gilbert Road a sociable road. So said Mr D.I. Piggott (chairman) when announcing that the Gilbert Road Social Club, which was formed out of the friendships made at the VJ party at the end of the war is in the process of being wound up. The secretary said "We have 308 adult members, but the greater part of them do not come to any ordinary functions". The proposal to wind up the club was carried unanimously

1949 06 18

Winners in the Chesterton shopping week competition were presented with their prizes at the Tivoli cinema. The object was to show the public that all the goods they need can be obtained in their own area, without wasting time and energy in buses and in queues; at competitive prices and with good service and personal attention. Shopkeepers had many difficulties to contend with during the past 10 years including coupons, form filling and shortage of material, and at the present time, shortage of ready money. There was laughter when men's names were given as the winners of a home perm and two pairs of nylons

## **1950**

1950 07 03

Several properties changed hands at auction. The Station Garage, Linton, sold at £2,750. Nos.54 Herbert Street & 231 Victoria Rd, Cambridge, made £1500 and £1,110 respectively. No.91 Mawson Road, Cambridge, sold for £900 and no.8 Selwyn Gardens was withdrawn at £5,750 and is now for sale by public treaty

1951 03 14

Approval of the layout of the new housing estate between Gilbert Road and Arbury Road is to be recommended by Cambridge council. Sites are provided for three-storey flats, semi-detached and blocks of four houses, a church, community centre, shops, cinema, public house and a nursery school

1951 03 24

The annual ceremony on top of Cambridge castle mound at 7.30 am on Eastern Sunday morning is becoming traditional. The company sings 'Christ the Lord is Risen Today' and then asks for God's blessing on Cambridge and its people. The event originated with Victoria Road Congregational Church and was intended to be a simple act of cheerful witness to the Easter message. Now it is

attended by people from many churches. It has been held annually for the past five years and attracts around 50 people. It is strangely impressive to look over the quiet town in the light of early morning and to hear the words of Christian faith lifting from the hilltop to be carried far and wide.

1951 04 18

Cambridge's first woman traffic warden takes up her duties on Monday, to help children cross the road before and after school. She is Mrs M.E. Vail who will be attached to St Luke's school, Victoria Road. The idea of having civilian traffic wardens was taken up in January when the education committee appointed a man for Morley memorial school; a second started at St Barnabas school this week.

1953 06 03

The special prize of £5 for the best decorated private house competition in Cambridge was won by Mrs M. O'Dell of Staffordshire Street who beat her nearest rival, Mr A.A. Cox of Victoria Road by one point. The standard was high and points awarded for each ward were very close. Winners included: Abbey Ward Mr R. Runham of Wellington Street; Castle: Miss J. Bowers, Windsor Road; Coleridge: Mr Blows, Cherry Hinton Road; Cherry Hinton: Mr R. Abraham, Chalmers Road and Market Mr W.G.D. Clee of Union Road.

1954 07 19

The Minister's decision on the County Development Plan has been announced. The only major Cambridge items not approved are the site of the bus station between Christ's college & Emmanuel and the proposed development for residential purposes of the smallholding land north of Arbury Road. All the central area road proposals including the 'spine relief road', the new Guildhall Street and a cross-town route joining Emmanuel Street with Downing Street have been approved together with the new Chesterton Bridge over the Cam near Walnut Tree Avenue, a multi-storey car park in Corn Exchange Street and a subway at the railway station.

1954 11 18

Councillors discussed the problems of building a new school on Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge. It was known that the site was water-logged and deep piles would have to be provided for the foundations. Chesterton Library which had been built on deep piles was already cracking up and for the same thing to happen to this expensive school would be disastrous. These difficulties had been pointed out to the Planning Officer but they supported the 'green field' site that was now developing into a 'green G-string'

1955 01 13

Complaints of hooliganism and late-night disturbances were aired at a stormy meeting to discuss parking arrangements for Magrath Avenue, Cambridge. The longest tirade came from one lady who said her husband was a working man and unable to get a proper night's sleep as the men outside were half drunk and the women a darned sight worse. New proposals would create parking spaces in front of the Rex Cinema and in Clare Street so as to avoid people blocking the back entrances to houses.

1956 06 15

Residents of Hale Street, Cambridge, petitioned against the large numbers of cars parked in the street every evening, sometimes bumper to bumper along both sides of the road. Their evening television entertainment has been ruined by continual interference from the vehicles and children woken up late at night by revving car engines and slamming doors. An elderly lady in a corner house recently had a bedroom ceiling fall down. She claims excessive vibration from the cars helped it to collapse. 56 06 15

1956 06 25

Cambridge Business and Profession Women's Club opened their block of flats on Harding Way and handed six lucky women their keys to brand new self-contained homes. They have coal bunkers and Ascot hot-water heaters for sinks and baths. Faced with the overwhelming need for accommodation

for single ladies in Cambridge, when it proved impossible to find a house, they had the braveness and energy to find £1,000 to form their own housing society. 56 06 25

1957 04 04

Bulldozers are clearing the ground for house building in Hurst Park Avenue where the hundred foot windmill and Mill Cottage are to be pulled down. There has been a mill on the site since the 16th century although the present building is about 120 years old. It has been a landmark for aircraft from local aerodromes and for many years has been a home for pigeons. 57 04 04a

1957 05 15

A revolutionary – even fantastic – scheme has been put forward to use Cambridge Castle Mound as a multi-deck car park. Tunnels would be driven into it to provide space for hundreds of cars with be entrances from Chesterton Lane, Huntingdon Road and Magrath Avenue. The dirt excavated could be used for filling in Coldham's Lane pit, providing more parking spaces or building land. There will no doubt be many objections. 57 05 15

1957 07 25

John Mowlem, 'a famous name in building' have a number of houses in Tedder Way, Hurrell Road and Harding Way on the Arbury Road Estate ready for immediate occupation. First class construction, part central heating and decorations to the purchaser's choice. Prices from £2,550 on easy purchase terms: deposit £255 and repayments from £3.9.6. per week. You are cordially invited to inspect the show house at 42 Hurrell Road which is open daily – advert. 57 07 25a

1957 08 31

A four-storey hostel for Clare College between the Shire Hall mound and Chesterton Road will provide the most modern accommodation in the University. Each of the 40 students will have his own bed-sitting room with adjoining washroom and clothes cupboards and central blocks of bathrooms and w.c.s. During vacations it will be used by delegates attending conferences. When the proposed Spine Relief Road is constructed the North side will face an up-to-date motorway. 57 08 31c & d

1958 03 06

The owner of Searle's Stores in Searle Street told the bankruptcy court he was making a profit of £8 a week until July 1956. Then the business started to decline. People moved from the area to council estates and he could not compete with the prices of cut-price shops. In addition his rates had increased from £5.6s.3d to £20. 58 03 06a

1958 10 23

Sir – There are a considerable number of car owners living on the Arbury Estate who have to travel a considerable distance to obtain petrol so it is very important that a garage and filling station should be erected on land fronting Arbury Road and Alex Wood Road. Arrangements have already been made to provide shopping facilities for the growing population and a service station is essential – Norman Lee, Harding Way. 58 10 23

1959 05 20

One of the recently-built council flats in Carlton Way has been opened to give prospective tenants an opportunity to inspect the types of homes to be offered, get an idea of the amount of furniture they will hold and take measurements for curtains and carpets. Each has an indoor coal bunker and its own shed. They are intended for older people whose families have grown up and left them with empty rooms. The rent is 16s.8d (84p) a week. 59 05 20

1959 09 11

Barbara Smith, woman butcher, Akeman Street – 59 09 11

1959 11 05

Cambridge Instrument Company proposed new laboratories, Chesterton Lane – 58 11 05 & a

1959 10 15

Cambridge Instrument Company opened its new research headquarters in Chesterton Road. Its four floors comprise laboratories for the development of instruments for mechanical engineering, electronics and physical chemistry together with a specious drawing office. It was a tribute to the unswerving devotion of the men who had worked there over the last 80 years, said Lord Adrian, University Vice-Chancellor. He had declined the use of a car and arrived on bicycle for the opening ceremony where he was presented with a compass. 59 10 15c

## **1960**

1960 07 07

In order to rescue the Arbury Estate from the 'grave danger of creating deserts of asphalt' a playground should be constructed on a site between Alex Wood Road and Mere Way. It would have a mound of earth 15 feet high and an open flat area providing scope for ball games, tricycles, marbles etc with a play park equipped with vertical and horizontal tree trunks. The ground is to be made deliberately uneven with mounds and hollows for imaginative play. But swings have been condemned as dangerous and expensive 60 07 07

1960 10 21

Since the opening of the New Chesterton Institute in 1885 members have not been able to obtain any alcoholic drinks in the club. But now it has opened a bar in an effort to increase the dwindling membership. One of the first to patronise it was 89-year-old Sam Gawthrop, who has been a member of the club for 72 years. His drink was a non-alcoholic ginger-ale. "I don't touch much of the stuff now, I am too old for that lark", he said. 60 10 21b

1961 01 02

The warehouses of Radio and Television Services Ltd, Gloucester Street, were gutted by fire. Scores of people living nearby went into their gardens as showers of sparks and splinters from exploding radio valves and television tubes showered down on their premises and residents of Clare Street used garden hoses to prevent the fire endangering their garden sheds. Arthur Brett (80) said the blaze and noise was just like the battle of the Somme. Employees will be moved to other buildings in the Pye group and there will be no serious interruption in the repair and servicing facilities operated by the company. The two-storey high building also houses a technical school for overseas radio experts. 61 01 02c

1961 02 17

The Old People's Welfare Council believes the best thing for the elderly is for them to live independently as long as possible. But many cannot and there are an increasing number of people wanting care in their old age. The main problem is finding suitable premises to make into old people's homes. In 1948 the County Council had to do with Linton Hospital and a few beds at Chesterton Hospital. Since then they have been modernised and improved. After the war buildings were very difficult to get because of competition from firms wanting office accommodation and the rising cost of land. The first new home was The Grove, Fordham in 1951, followed by Willingham House and in 1956 Primrose Croft was adapted to take 35 elderly residents. The future plans are to erect purpose-designed buildings 61 02 17b

1961 04 18

Sir – Arbury Estate is already overcrowded and is alive with children for whose needs only the minimum facilities have been provided. Already some 730 residents have signed a petition calling for a number of open spaces for youngsters. Now the council is planning to build two blocks of flats on land at the top of Alex Wood Road. These should be resited to give a park for mothers with their prams and old people to sit in the sun with perhaps a bowling green like the one on the Whitehill estate – P.W. Cadogan, Arbury Estate Children's Playgrounds Committee 61 04 18

1961 09 29

History of Industrial School in Victoria Road pioneered by Harvey Goodwin – by Clifford Thurley  
61 09 29d

1962 01 19

A Scandinavian-style house at 7, Hurst Park Avenue, built five years ago, is well insulated and centrally heated by a boiler featuring a small bore system with circulating pumps thermostatically controlled. The lounge has French windows opening to a terrace while the dining room has a serving hatch from the kitchen. The four bedrooms have built-in fittings with full-length wardrobes and a glass door. It is a good example of contemporary architecture on a small scale 62 01 19b

1962 01 25

Castle Street, Chesterton Lane corner widening – 62 01 25

1962 05 01

An experiment at Mitcham's Corner designed to speed up rush hour traffic brought protests from road users and residents. Cars and lorries were brought to a complete standstill for up to ten minutes in Chesterton Hall Crescent which was used to siphon off traffic from Milton and Gilbert Roads. Residents protested saying it was a fiasco and the scheme should be abandoned. There were 16 children under ten years of age living in the Crescent and they felt strongly for their safety 62 05 01a

1962 07 09

Plans for an 11-storey block of 60 flats on the junction of Roseford Road and Carlton Way met with opposition from residents concerned it would cut out a lot of light from nearby houses. Members of the Arbury Playgrounds and Open Spaces Committee say it is the only open space apart from the recreation ground on this side of the estate which will eventually house 10,000 people. You could not blame teenagers for getting into trouble if they had nowhere to go. 62 07 09

1962 09 14

Maurice Stevenson started as a cinema projectionist in 1927 as a lad of 16 at the old Tivoli Cinema in Chesterton Road. They were the silent days. Then he went to the Regal and later the Central. In the old 'disc' days you had to be careful even closing the door in case you shook the needle out of its groove in the record. If you lost the synchronisation between the record and film it was the devil's own job getting it back again, he remembers. The machinery is much more simple to operate now. 62 09 14

1963 07 08

Blackamoor's Head in Victoria Road demolition – 63 07 08a

1963 08 13

St Luke's school buildings which are being pulled down may be replaced by gardens – 63 08 13

1963 09 06

Workmen have begun to prepare the gardens which will replace some old classrooms that were demolished because of their unsafe condition at St Luke's Primary School, Victoria Road. Low brick walls surrounding the gardens are being erected. The school authorities are to encourage the children to look after the gardens themselves 63 09 06

1963 09 09

Victoria Road Congregational Church Hall – unusual view visible by demolition – 63 09 09

1963 10 03

More and more Cambridge people are rejecting the idea of a three-bedroomed house and there is a growing demand for small, one or two bedroomed units. Brookfields, on East Road, should consist entirely of these types of property and be supplemented by development at the junction of Carlton

Way. The improvement and conversion of the older type of pre-war council houses should be advanced at all speed, councillors were told. They will draw up proposals for the redevelopment of aluminium bungalows at Church End, Cherry Hinton 63 10 03

1963 10 04

St Luke's Mews, off Chesterton Lane, are the first moderately priced new town houses in central Cambridge. Although only ten minutes' walk from the centre, the houses stand in a quiet setting with mature trees. The completely modern design incorporates gas hot air central heating and independent electric thermostatically controlled domestic hot water supply. They have built-in cupboard under the stairs, built-in dustbin cupboard, two bedrooms and internal bathroom. There are gardens to rear and a forecourt for car parking. Prices from £3,110. (£55,000 at today's prices) 63 10 04

1963 10 15

Magrath Avenue residents object to Rex Cinema showing motor racing films for Cambridge Car Club – 63 10 15

1964 01 25

Many of the council houses built 30 years ago in Stretton Avenue, Darwin Drive and Scotland Road need modernisation: there is no hot water, the bath is in the scullery and they have only outside lavatories. They were becoming 'social slums' and attracting 'the least desirable of tenants' said councillors. But residents say they are like an old fashioned community: Mrs Evelyn Pigott, who keeps a grocery shop in Akeman Street has organised a group of householders willing to help cook for neighbours while the alterations were carried out. 64 01 25b & c

1964 02 29

St Luke's church schools in Victoria Road are outdated and almost sub-standard. However since 1962, when children were shivering in classes, electric heating has been installed to take the load off the open fires. The school is fifth on the list for rebuilding within the next four years, but may slip down the list. Until a new one is built parents will have to remain dissatisfied with the accommodation. The council is not rejuvenating the decaying areas of the city but concentrating on new ones. 64 02 29a

1964 06 18

Down Your Street article by Erica Dimock on French's Road – 64 06 18a

1964 09 02

No new industries employing more than five people will be established and only a moderate expansion of those existing will be approved, says the Minister of Housing in his review of the Cambridge Town Map. The inner relief road will be rerouted to take it clear of Jesus College grounds and Marshall's garage and the Western Bypass will now run next to the University Observatory and behind properties in Storey's Way. Local shopping centres will be expanded at Mitcham's Corner, Mill Road and at the corner of Alex Wood Road. There will also be a car park to the south of Silver Street. 64 09 02

1964 09 15

The first stage of Cambridge's Inner Relief Road would comprise twin-carriageways starting with a roundabout at Murkett's Corner, on the junction of Huntingdon and Histon Roads. The planned road goes southward through the Rex Cinema site, leaving space for the proposed law courts near Shire Hall. As it approaches Chesterton Road there will be a flyover to take the main traffic flow over a roundabout. Then there would be a new bridge over the Cam before it crosses Jesus Green parallel to Park Parade. A subway will give access under the road to Jesus Green. 64 09 15

1965 01 21

Victoria Road Congregational Youth Club attracts 50 15-21 year-olds each week. There is a large hall and they can dance or play games, talk and drink coffee. The highlights include punt parties, sausage



sizzles and barbecues. In spite of the austerity of the hall there is a genuine air of friendliness. Organisers have tried to introduce more serious activities but they have not proved too popular. The evenings end with a short epilogue, though the influence of religion is not particularly stressed. 65 01 21a

1965 02 05

Roseford Road – Carlton Way five-storey flats approved, Arbury – 65 02 05b

1966 06 28

Roseford Road panoramic view – photo – 66 06 28

1967 03 03

Mitcham's Corner, second huge island created between Chesterton Rd & Victoria Rd – 67 03 03b

1968 01 10

Staff of L. Eyres Knitwear of Searle Street work extra time on export bid – 68 01 10a

1968 11 05

Parking at Rex, Magrath Ave – photo – 68 11 05

## **1970**

1970 05 16

Birch's Garage began Victoria Road in 1956, moved Milton Road – feature – 70 05 16

1972 03 20

Victoria road, Cambridge, is a narrow one with even narrower pavements barely wide enough for one person. But this road is used unceasingly day and night by heavy traffic. This is a confounded nuisance because of the noise and vibration and pollution caused to the unfortunate people who live there and use the road. The blast from these high-powered lorries driving at speed along the road means old and weaker people are literally blown aside by the blast. (Letter)

1972 03 22

New signals Milton Road / Gilbert Road, p16

1972 05 12

Robinson and Gimbert, the Cambridge builders with reputation for high class work have been taken over by one of the "big boys" of British home building. From next week they will be trading under the direction of T & E Homes Ltd of Reigate. The Cambridge firm who started in Guildhall Street 25 years ago and moved to Victoria Road six years ago have 60 full time employees. Robinson and Gimbert currently have schemes on the go at Oakington and Stapleford, and recently completed one at Waterbeach. They build about 50 houses a year

1972 05 15

The story-book world of Bambi the baby deer came to Gilbert Road, Cambridge, yesterday when Mr Roy Wing looked over his garden fence. He couldn't believe his eyes. A small, brown, bright-eyed young deer was sitting calmly among the foliage in his neighbour's garden at 142 Gilbert Road in the middle of suburban Cambridge, many miles from the known haunts of deer, p11

1976 03 15

The possible closure to through traffic of Arbury Road, Cambridge, will be discussed by the city council. Some councillors have been pressing for years for the road closure as a way of improving the environment for people living in the Arbury area. The road is, at peak periods, one of the busiest in Cambridge with commuter traffic. The suggestions are certain to cause a storm of protest. The main

objection will centre round the claim that a lot more traffic would be pushed on to the already busy Gilbert Road.

1976 06 01

Vibration from heavy lorries thundering along Victoria Road, Cambridge, is causing considerable damage to some of the houses in the road, residents claim. Other have suffered cracking and crumbling mortar and damage to roof tiles. "The lorries are worse than ever now. It's not just the noise and vibration, it's the smell as well", says Mrs Mabel Haggis. The City Surveyor said: "The Northern bypass, which will be completed by the end of 1977, should lead to a considerable easing of the situation."

1972 11 30

A new hotel opens in Cambridge this week - and with 33 bedrooms it becomes the fourth largest in the city. The new Arundel House Hotel is a complex of red brick houses on Chesterton Road overlooking the River and Jesus Green. The development follows the purchase of number 61 Chesterton Road last year and its conversion into a 12-bedroomed hotel. Now John Norfolk has converted two other adjacent properties he owns - from flats and bedsitters to an integrated hotel complex. "With house prices as they are now it is virtually impossible to charge a proper rent related to these new values, " he said. "The transition of Chesterton Road into a hotel was the obvious answer to get a proper return"

1976 08 31

Plans for a nightclub in the former Rex Ballroom and Cinema at Magrath Avenue, Cambridge, have been scrapped after residents succeeded in opposing both a drinks licence and a music, singing and dancing licence for the club. Mr Gordon Cave wanted to open 'The Carioca Club' on the premises but faced violent objections from the police, the city council and residents who have for years protested about the noise and nuisance caused. Their complaints intensified when the ballroom was turned into a nightclub a few years ago and the cinema became a bingo hall.

1978 04 06

Quietly and without fuss our daily bread got dearer this week, with the news that the big three bakeries were adding 2p to the cost of a "standard" sliced and wrapped loaf, bringing the cost up to 28½ p. In Cambridge the price of farmhouse loaves is left to the baker. Bridgeman Bros of Norfolk Street charge 30½ p for a very crusty, tasty and attractive loaf; Tylers of Mill Road charge 30p, & E.J. How and Godfreys of Regent Street 29p. The most expensive are Dixon's of Fitzroy Street & Maskell's of Victoria Road who charge 31p for a pale golden, high, crusty, loaf.

1978 06 21

Some Cambridge colleges are threatening to ban visitors because this year's greatly increased numbers of tourists are causing problems. It is important to provide a permanent tourist coach park somewhere near the main tourist centre. A report says the best site would be on common and allotment land next to the News building on Newmarket Road. But some councillors think the ideal place would be in the vicinity of the railway station, at Saxon Street car park or on derelict land at the corner of Histon Road and Victoria Road.

1979 02 02

The old Rex Cinema and ballroom in Magrath Avenue Cambridge which has been a source of controversy among nearby residents is now owned by Cambridgeshire County Council who paid £33,000 for it at auction. The building has been almost derelict since the Abbey Sports and Social Club closed in October 1973. The exact future of the site has yet to be decided but it will extend the present facilities at the Shire Hall

1979 06 21

The price and availability of petrol has been in the news in the past few weeks. Petrol rationing in the United States and Sheikh Yamani's latest warnings on the oil crisis shake the most complacent, North

Sea oil or no. Post-budget prices are well up and supplies fluctuate. Opening hours have been varied and a number of petrol stations are rationing customers to five gallons. Both Tesco (Gulf) and Sainsbury in Coldham's Lane were charging £1.04 for four star but Hallens (BP) at Victoria Road corner were 10p more. Holland's in Mill Road matched Marshall's price of £1.07, the Newmarket Road Service Station (Phoenix), where you are served as opposed to manning the pumps yourself, charged £1.08 and the Lolworth Service Station was £1.12.

1979 07 31

Pubs in and around Cambridge have come in for bitter criticism in a new guide written by two undergraduates. The Rose in Rose Crescent is described as a 'seedy little place in a seedy little street. Gay Cambridge meets there, which says little for their taste'. The Maypole in Park Street is described as a 'grotty little dive hidden rightly under the car park', the Carpenters Arms in Victoria Road is 'without redeeming feature; extremely anti-student clientele who would have beaten us up if they hadn't been so drunk. Dark and spooky'. The Locomotive in Mill Road 'ought to be exorcised, its evil ... the worst pub in Cambridge' while the Midland Tavern is, they say, 'the most notorious pub in town with a reputation for being a centre of vice'. One landlord replied: "It's about time the University made these little boys do some work for their degrees ... they speak too much claptrap"

**1980**

1980 07 31

Following the recent cut in petrol prices differences of 8p or more can be found by shopping around with Tesco at Bar Hill charging £1.32 for a gallon compared to £1.40 at Hallen's on Victoria Road corner. Four-star is the main contender in the fight for sales and a number of garages have dropped two-star altogether. Looking back a year ago when many garages were short of petrol and 'regulars only' signs littered the forecourts, the current surplus of supply seems barely credible. But it is most unlikely we will return to the days when they gave free gifts and trading stamps in a bid to attract business. 80 07 31

1981 05 01

It took £10,000, two 20-ton cranes and a good deal of ingenuity for Cambridge artist, Philip Martin, to realise a lifetime's ambitions. He has taken delivery of a 70-foot barge. The 15-ton monster had to be winched off its transporter and lowered into the Cam at Riverside before being pulled by hand a mile up river to its permanent base opposite Alpha Road. It will take some time to convert it into one of the few floating art galleries in the country. 81 05 01

1981 07 09

Mr & Mrs Jack O'Dell, the first Cambridge council house tenants to buy their own homes were given a potted plant when handed the keys to their house in Carlton Way. With a 50 per cent discount the three-bedroomed house has cost them £9,375. More than 800 other tenants have asked to buy since the law was changed last October. 81 07 09

1982 03 12

Maurice Stevenson is Cambridge's longest-serving projectionist; he recently retired from the Victoria Cinema after showing films for 54 years. He started aged 14 at the old Tivoli Cinema in Chesterton Road, moved to the Central, then the Playhouse where he was chief projectionist at the age of 18. Later he was at the Regal. He has seen it all from the 'silent' days to the coming of 'talkies', then colour; from the advent of 3D and wide screen to stereophonic sound, from traditional projection methods to highly-developed technology. 82 03 12d

1984 02 03

A £1 million scheme is being planned for 100 Cambridge council houses in the Akeman Street and Darwin Drive areas because a 'modernisation' project carried out 20 years ago has gone wrong. Prefabricated units, constructed mainly of wood and plastic were installed as a quick way of bringing the houses up to standard, but they have deteriorated badly. Now ten houses in Darwin Drive maybe

pulled down to make space for flats suitable for old people or those in need of sheltered accommodation. 84 02 03 p15

1984 08 28

Furious shopkeepers in Chesterton Road are banding together to fight plans to turn a derelict house into a hostel for the homeless. They claim it will be a home for drunks who will make life unbearable for people living in the area. The sub-postmaster says drug addicts and drunks are already a problem – on Thursday afternoons half the customers are drunk when they come in for their Giro. But the King Street Housing Association says it will be a refuge for the homeless with full supervision and not a place for alcoholics. 84 08 28 p5

1984 11 14

Sir - This is the 50th anniversary of a great act of kindness to the dogs of Cambridgeshire by a distinguished foreign visitor. In 1934 HRH Prince Chula of Siam erected a memorial to his dog Tony in the form of a fountain at the correct height so that dogs could slake their thirst in hot weather. It still stands outside the Chesterton branch of Lloyd's Bank but is in a sorry condition. Can it not be cleaned up and maintained? - Paul Garside, Science Park. 84 11 14 p16

1985 05 10

Ask Ted Taylor how many times the siren went in Cambridge during the war and he will answer straight away – 269. He was an air-raid warden and would trot off to his post at the end of the street each time they sounded. He covered the Roseford Road area with seven other wardens, making sure there was a total blackout. One memory is of the German prisoners-of-war who built concrete roads outside prefabs which later made way for Molewood Close and Birdwood Close. Ted has given away his steel helmet and mislaid his gasmask, but he still has the stirrup pump with which he was issued. 85 05 10b

1985 08 07

The New Chesterton Institute was founded 100 years ago to promote the moral, mental and physical well-being of its members. Today with 1,100 members the NCI Sports and Social Club is still going strong. Meetings were originally held in the Coffee House, Searle Street until the present building was erected in 1891. In the early days it was famous as a debating society. Now it is known more for its sporting achievements and even has a crib team. 85 08 07a

1985 10 15

Pigott's, the family ironmongers which has traded in Cambridge for more than a century, is up for sale. It was in 1863 that John Pigott, son of a Landbeach farmer, opened an ironmongers shop in Sidney Street and a chain of shops were set up in Market Hill, Mill Road, Norfolk Street, Bridge Street and Hills Road. The Sussex Street branch, an established feature of the street since the late 1930s, shut down last September. The business, now in Victoria Road, includes two shops, a warehouse, stores and office. 85 10 15a

1985 12 10

More than 200 young people entered the Rob Roy pub in Chesterton Road to hold a late-night disco. Sixty-five police prevented any more entering as toilet rolls, a chair and other pieces of furniture rained down. As there were no lights on, except for the disco light and with a crowd in excess of 200 police decided it would be unsafe to enter and clear the building. The pub had not been derelict but undergoing refurbishment and considerable damage was done to the upstairs room. It followed confrontation with several hundred youths outside the former Thakes cycle shop in East Road 85 12 10b

1986 02 19

When Charles Kidman decided in 1876 to start up his own building business Britain was in the midst of a recession. Yet within 20 years he had built most of Romsey with its distinctive terraced houses plus a whole series of large contract work which enabled him to retire at the tender age of 40! Today,

110 years later, Kidman & Son is a thriving business with another Charles Kidman at the helm determined to maintain the family tradition of personal service coupled with flexibility. From their workshops in Victoria Road teams of bricklayers, carpenters and labourers are on hand for the craft of building 86 02 19b & c

1986 04 24

A plan to turn the old Tivoli Cinema in Chesterton Road into an arts and entertainment centre has been turned down as it would cause noise and traffic problems in the area.. It hoped to have featured films, fashion shows, music and exhibitions and would sometimes have remained open for music and dancing until the early hours. But residents opposed the idea. The Tivoli was for a long time used as a storage warehouse and some months ago was granted permission to be turned into a public house and restaurant 86 04 24

1986 06 11

Chesterton Mill, in French's Road was built in 1847 but has stood derelict for the last 30 years. The eight-sided smock mill was only partially successful when driven by wind so the sails were removed in the 1890s and it was subsequently driven by steam, suction gas and diesel. It has now been renovated and starts a new lease of life as the home of Cambridge public relations firm Beveridge Kartupelis. 86 06 11a

1986 08 22

The Church Housing Trust's new hostel in Victoria Road aims to get away from an institutional set-up with single rooms and bedsits for 75 homeless people. Alcohol will be banned and residents encouraged to improve their lifestyle to enable them to live in the community again. Nearby home owners have been reassured that problems will be few and far between because if residents have been drinking they keep away as they don't want to lose their accommodation. The Trust's existing premises in Willow Walk will be also retained 86 08 22

1986 08 28

French's Mill was built on a high point in Chesterton in 1847 by William Beart. It was a wooden-walled smock mill but didn't catch enough wind, so it was jacked up and an eight-sided brick base added. But it was still not satisfactory so in 1868 William French converted it to run on steam power. Later the sails were removed and gas engines installed, to be replaced by diesel 14 years later. At its peak small bakers used the it regularly but when the adjoining land was taken as playing fields for St Peter's School it looked as if the mill was doomed. Now it has begun a new life as an office suite and the surrounding buildings house ten other small companies playing their part in the technology boom 86 08 28

1986 10 28

The Council is undertaking its biggest renovation to wipe out some of Cambridge's worst living conditions. After 15 years the damp-prone bathroom 'pods' stuck on to brick kitchens will be removed from Darwin Drive, Akeman Street, Stretton Avenue and other streets. The modernisation programme will transform pokey 50-year-old homes into spacious, modern accommodation. There will be a new bedroom and bathroom, fully-fitted kitchen, central heating and new windows. Residents who move out for the 20 weeks of renovation can claim a disturbance allowance of several hundred pounds. 86 10 28a

1987 03 13

A new purpose-built car park providing 67 long-stay spaces has opened in Castle Hill, with another 57 places coming in a few months time. City councillors say the park, near the junction with Victoria Road, will offer convenient access to shops and businesses in the north of Cambridge. It will have a park-and-display system charging 50p for any period on weekdays, doubling to £1 on April 1st. But there will be free parking in evenings and Sundays 87 03 13a

1987 06 09

A small Cambridge research and development company has beaten international giants to win a prestigious engineering award. W.A. Technology, based in French's Road has clinched the Finniston Award for designing and building the world's first commercial instrument for viewing the atomic structure on the surface of materials. The scanning tunnelling microscope emerged from research by two Nobel prizewinners in conjunction with scientists at Cambridge University. The company was founded in 1982 by Barry Ambrose and Dr Colin Wilson who met when they worked at the Cavendish Laboratory 87 06 09

1987 09 16

Granta Morris, which meets at St Luke's Barn in French's Road, sprang into life five years ago. It has 16 members including a vet, a technician and some without jobs. The Squire, Leigh Watson who knows 190 dances calls out instructions as the accordion strikes up tunes such as 'Headington' which is based on bean-setting. Granta perform at fetes, pubs and college May balls. Sometimes they encounter hecklers. Three skinheads started taunting them once so Leigh invited them to have a go. The trio soon admitted Morris deserves respect. But yobs threw stink-bombs under the feet in North Wales - 87 09 16

1987 11 02

Churchill Service Station, on the corner of Huntingdon and Victoria Roads, has been sold to oil giant Texaco and will be renamed Star Cambridge. They plan to turn the garage workshop area into a supermarket, expanding the grocery section which has been serving the local community for several years. Its founder, Tom Sharpley, moved to Cambridge from Benfleet in 1976, initially selling Chevron fuel. He has mixed feelings: "I have met some horrible creatures in the business but also some first-class people while I've been here". 87 11 02a

1988 07 12

St Luke's, one of Cambridge's most prominent Victorian churches in Victoria Road, is to be converted into a community centre for the whole of the parish of the Ascension, formed in 1982 by the union with St Giles and St Peter. The adjacent United Reformed Church will be demolished and the land sold for housing. There are no plans to amalgamate the two congregations who will share the new-look church. 88 07 12a

1988 09 20

The Bishop of Huntingdon, Rt Rev Gordon Rose, conducted the last service at St Luke's Church, Victoria Road, before builders move in to start £800,000 alterations. Afterwards he led the congregation, which included the mayor, to the United Reformed Church next door which will be their home until work is completed. Then both congregations will move back to St Luke's and the United Reformed Church will be demolished to make way for more housing. 88 09 20

1988 11 10

Residents of a controversial block of flats in Cambridge have denied their home is a terrible place to live. Tenants in Kingsway Flats, off Carlton Way, are working with the council to spruce up the block's image. It is a good place to live, the flats are excellent and when proposed improvements are finished people will clamour to live there, they say. There is a kebab stall on the corner and a lot of young people on motor cycles hang around but on the whole it is quiet. 88 11 10

1988 12 15

The former Tivoli cinema building which opened on Chesterton Road in 1925 has been converted into 'The Exchange' with two large cocktail bars and a 120-seater restaurant. Later will come a basement gym, a punt landing stage and a roof garden restaurant with panoramic views over Jesus Green. Entertainment facilities include a huge electronic roll-down screen, the latest audio equipment and closed circuit television relaying film of the dance hall, But great care has been taken to preserve the distinctive atmosphere with plaster ceiling mouldings and a combination of rich dark and red wood 88 12 15a

1989 06 07

Angry residents are banding together to block plans to sell the former Roger Ascham School and part of the nearby Chesterton playing fields for a potential housing development. Founded as a school for children with physical disabilities, it closed in 1987 and is now used as a teachers' resource centre. Residents are worried about the increase in traffic and noise which would result. The amenity value and its potential for the community have been ignored, they claim 89 06 07

1989 07 14

Arbury School, Carlton Way, head teacher Barry Jones retires – 89 07 14

1990 01 10

United Reformed Church, Victoria Road is holding its first major service after undergoing an £830,000 redevelopment. The ceremony to welcome the Rev Norman Setchell as its new minister will take place in St Luke's Church which has been converted to create a joint home for the URC and Anglican congregations as well as a community centre. The two churches, which stood side by side for a century, will still hold separate morning services with joint worship taking place in the evenings – 90 01 10

1990 06 14

St Luke's school, French's Road opened in 1874, closed in 1969 when new school constructed – feature – 90 06 14a

1990 12 21

Chesterton Community College hall renamed Rex Freeman Hall – 90 12 21b